



In America, health care is financed primarily through a mix of public and private insurance, but many persons still lack financial access to basic health care services and financial protection against the high costs of illness. Over the past two decades, Utah has initiated several health insurance policy reforms to expand coverage to uninsured populations, and to promote continuity of coverage.

The *2004 Utah Health Status Survey Report: Health Insurance Coverage* describes the health insurance status of Utahns in 2004, based on data from the 2004 Utah Health Status Survey. The Executive Summary is followed by a Health Status Survey Findings section, which presents major findings with figures and graphs, tables, and accompanying text. The statistical estimates for the figures are located in the tables following each graph. The tables contain additional information that does not appear in the graphs and figures. The Health Status Survey Findings are organized around the following four themes:

- A Profile of Utahns Without Coverage presents the proportion of uninsured Utahns by selected demographic, socio-economic, geographic, and health status variables.
- Lack of Coverage in Utah: The Nature of the Problem reports on characteristics of uninsured persons, such as how long people have been without coverage and the main reasons for not having coverage.
- Health Insurance Coverage by Plan Type describes health insurance coverage by type of plans individuals have and presents some characteristics of those individuals.
- Adequacy of Coverage shows the current estimates for the percentage of Utahns and information concerning whether they reported problems obtaining medical care.

Readers interested in learning about the survey's sampling design, weighting, and estimation procedures may consult the Technical Notes section at the end of the report.

Trends in health insurance rates are influenced by complex demographic, economic, and health care industry-related factors. It is important to consider those factors when interpreting the findings reported here. Examining the extent to which any of those factors influenced the findings presented here is beyond the scope of this project.